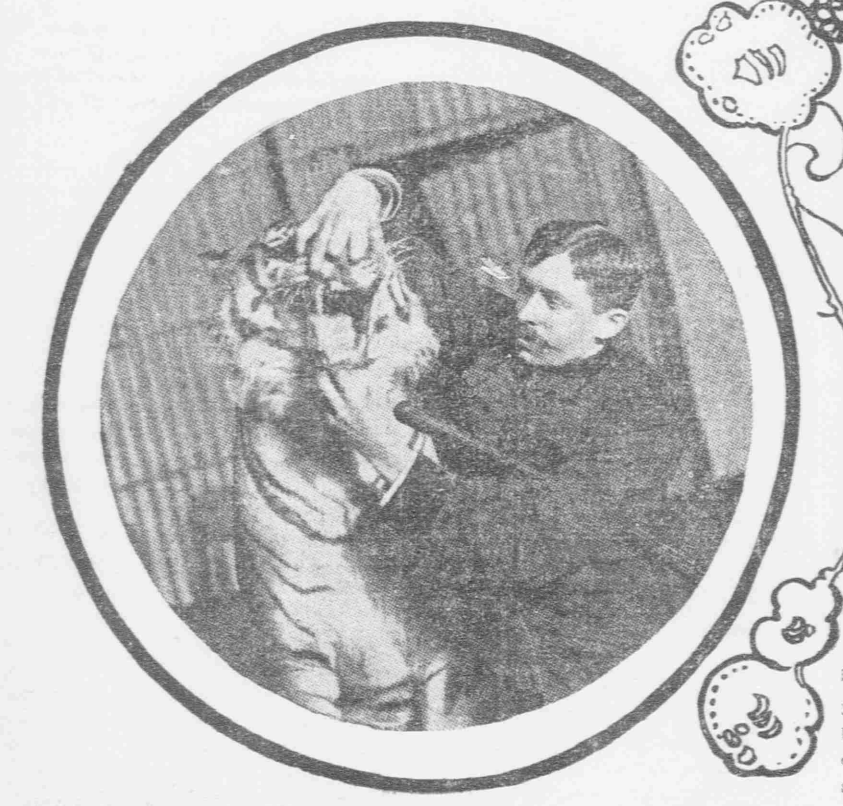


# HOW HAGENBECK BEGAN TO CAPTURE AND TRAIN ANIMALS

The Story of the Establishment and Growth of the Big German Animal Industry That Has Been Carried On By Two Successive Generations and Has Become World-Famous.

What Came of a Lad's Sudden Determination to Become a Trader. How the Sale of a Few Singing Birds Opened the Way for the Present Trained Animal Business.



"CHARLEY," THE BENGAL TIGER.

TOURISTS from all parts of the globe who visit Hamburg, Germany, invariably ask to be shown the "Tierpark" of Carl Hagenbeck. And if perchance they meet the venerable proprietor himself ten visitors out of every dozen will ask how he came to start in the business of training and dealing in wild animals. No question could please Mr. Hagenbeck more, for it brings up pleasant recollections of dear old "Unser Carl."

"Unser Carl," he will tell you, was the founder of the house of Hagenbeck, the pioneer animal dealer of the Continent. The present owner of the big zoo is the third in his line, and he is nearly sixty. So many, many years ago, as the story runs, Uncle Carl, then a tow-headed lad of eighteen, was idling along the docks of the River Elbe in Hamburg. Even then the port was of great commercial importance. Ships from every nation contributed to the business activity of the place. The boy, anxious to try his hand at trading, bought some singing birds one day from sailors just in from the Canary Islands. He found a ready market for them among the Ger-

man housewives of the town, and hurried back to his sailor friends to place a bigger order. It was not so many months before he began dealing in monkeys, and even invested in a few small bears, which he sold with profit to a traveling menagerie. And from this modest beginning sprang the house of Hagenbeck—known in every clime and practically controlling the wild and trained animal business of the world.

#### Expeditions to Capture Animals.

During the last forty years the concern has stocked practically all of the zoological gardens of this country and Europe. Agencies have long been established in Asia, Africa, South America, and the East Indies, and twice every year expeditions are sent into the interior to capture whatever specimens are needed at the Hamburg depot. Much money is spent in securing rare and hitherto unexhibited species. Some thirty years ago the London Zoological Society caused quite a stir with an animal that Europeans had never before seen. It was the horned rhinoceros that Carl Hagenbeck had captured after much trouble and expense in Asia. Later he



ALASKA'S JUGGLING SEA LION.

imported the Siberian tiger, and four years ago the Persian tiger. These beasts created a sensation in zoological circles, and gave a fresh impetus to the study of natural history in England and on the Continent.

Last October a herd of twenty-six Mongolian wild horses arrived in Hamburg. They were captured as foals in a district some twelve days' march from Peking, and, it is said, cost Hagenbeck \$25,000 before he landed them at home. But as they brought over \$2,000 apiece, the expedition showed a handsome profit.

#### Training Wild Animals.

The work of training the animals that passed through Mr. Hagenbeck's hands, it is stated, was undertaken more as a pastime than anything else at first. Lion and tiger cubs that played about the house like kittens were taught to answer when called, and to perform a routine of simple tricks. Little by little the possibilities in this direction dawned upon the owner. The science of animal training—for in Mr. Hagenbeck's hands it has come to be a science—was then unknown. Crude exhibitions were sometimes given, but too many serious accidents happened to give the public any taste for that sort of thing.

Once started, the work at Hamburg was undertaken in a careful and systematic manner. The disposition and comparative intelligence of each animal were studied for months. Once a lion or a tiger or a bear was found to be unsafe he was put aside and a more tractable substitute found. In this way progress was made, slowly to be sure, but with a minimum risk of life and limb. Mr. Hagenbeck himself went into the training cages and showed his lieutenants how he wanted things done. And so after long, weary years of effort, and more patience than the average job of modern days has any idea of, a system of training animals was evolved that startled the world.

#### Mr. Hagenbeck's Advantages.

Of course, Mr. Hagenbeck had a great advantage over his competitors, in that he always had on hand a great variety of beasts to select from. In the show that comes to Washington this week there is one group of sixteen animals for which there were over sixty candidates, so to speak. In other words about seventy-six lions, tigers, leopards, pumas, etc., were at least partially trained before sixteen were found that would live together in peace and harmony and do their master's bidding. This group, pronounced one of the most remarkable ever placed on exhibition, is in the hands of Herman Boger, a young German, who has long been in the employ of the Hagenbeck establishment. It consists of one lion-tiger cross-breed, one Somali lion, one Cape lion, two male Bengal tigers, one small Korean female tiger, two female Indian leopards, two South American pumas, three polar bears and three German boar hounds. Fifty thousand dollars has been refused for this collection.

#### Killed Two in Self-Defense.

Another of Hagenbeck's proteges, John Dudak by name, appears in the arena with nine polar bears. There were originally twenty-four in this group, that number having been captured by an expedition to Spitzbergenland in 1897. Several died before they became acclimated, while Dudak has actually killed two in

self-defense. One attacked him in tour began in New York three months ago. During this season and next the show will be kept on the road, after which it will be installed inside the grounds at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

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## IRRIGATION IN THE COLORADO DESERT

SOME strange things are taking place in the great desert of Southern California, known, because of its being bounded on the east by the river of that name, as the Colorado Desert, says a Los Angeles correspondent of the "Cincinnati Enquirer." Where for centuries have been but dreary wastes of unproductive sands are now springing up villages and towns and vast areas of abundant crops of almost every variety of fruit, vegetables, and grains known to subtropical regions. Water is the magic wand which is producing this transformation; not the water which is showered down from the heavens—that is too uncertain—but that derived from another source, irrigation.

Irrigation is the watchword of the West. Even in localities outside the desert belt there is felt the need of water other than that which is supplied by the clouds. That supply cannot be depended upon. Sometimes there is too much of it, and again it is withheld until the crops and their owners are ruined. As an example of rapid development resulting from artificial irrigation may be cited the imperial country in the Colorado Desert. February 8, 1901, there was born in the township of Calexico a child to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Besch. The newcomer was the first white child born in that town, and was at that time the only white child therein. Upon the occasion of her being christened—with the name of Cameron—one of the big land development companies presented

the young miss with a town lot in recognition of her being the first white child to select the town as her birth place. Now, before little Miss Cameron has attained her second birthday there are in the township 300 children of school age, her town lot has increased in value from a few hundred dollars to \$1,000, a railroad is being built through the town, and fertile fields stretch away on every side where, upon the day of her birth, were but barren sands. The valuation of the township lands has advanced from a few thousand dollars to more than \$3,000,000, and all this accomplished by a ditch a few feet deep and wide which diverts a portion of the waters of the Colorado River and spreads them over the sands of the erstwhile desert.

## EXPLORER TELLS OF MOST REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF MODERN TIMES

DR. SVEN HEDIN, the celebrated Swedish explorer, has lately returned home after accomplishing what may justly be described as the most remarkable land journey of modern times. His travels in Central Asia occupied three years and three days, and for two and one-half years he was completely cut off from all communication with the outer world. During this period the explorer traversed at least 6,000 miles of absolutely unknown lands. The hardships encountered among the mountains, and especially in the interminable sand wastes of the deserts, were at times almost unendurable, and the caravan lost heavily, both in men and animals. The doctor, however, is in the best of health and says he is none the worse for his experiences. During his expedition, Dr. Sven Hedin made two attempts to reach Lhasa, disguised as a Mongolian pilgrim, and succeeded in getting within one day's journey of that mysterious center, when he was turned back. The result of the expedition will prove of the highest scientific value, as the explorer has collected an immense amount of data, including a map 1,000 feet long, in 1,149 sheets, and nearly 3,000 photographs. The scientific data will take several years to work at, and will be included in a book of five volumes and an atlas of two volumes.

#### Tells of His Trip.

The general outline of the explorer's journey has already been telegraphed to England; but Dr. Sven Hedin courteously gave some fresh details of his remarkable experiences. He said: "The results of my expedition, from a geographical point of view, are the mapping of 6,000 miles of new country, and, in consequence, a complete alteration

of the existing charts of Central Asia. The vexed question of the ancient Lake Lob has also been finally disposed of, as I shall show later. On its shores I have discovered ruined cities and temples, and manuscripts which will shed much light on the political and physical conditions of the region in the third century. I have determined the astronomical position of 113 places. To deal with the whole of the journey in the limits of an interview is quite impossible; but I will give some of the most striking incidents of my travels.

#### Could Not Breathe.

"The hardest part of the expedition was my experiences in Tibet. During my second journey from Charklik to Ladakh, which lasted eight months, I lost nearly the whole of my caravan, owing to the enormous altitudes at which we were traveling. Some vague idea of this may be gathered when I tell you that even in the valleys we were higher than the summit of Mont Blanc. The mere act of breathing was most difficult, and on this one trip four of my companions died, simply for this reason—they could not breathe. When we came to our evening camping ground two of these devoted followers were found stark dead on their camels. The others died gradually from their feet upward, retaining their senses to the end, the brain being the last to be attacked. The experience was weird and awful, and certainly the worst I have ever had. I was not affected to the same degree, but I was quite unable to march, and had to remain immovable in the saddle the whole day. Even to unbutton one's coat meant acute pain and tension to an overwrought heart, which literally was at the point of breaking. The poor animals, too, suffered much. Out of forty-

five horses I lost forty-four, and thirty out of thirty-nine camels left their bones in those terrible altitudes. My only safety lay in the fact that I never left the saddle for a single moment from morning till we pitched camp in the evening. Had I done so, my heart, too, would probably have given way. During this one Tibetan journey of a thousand miles icy gales blew in our faces the whole way. Bad as my former experiences of the sand wastes of the Takla Makan Desert were, I would sooner endure them ten times over than again cross Tibet.

#### Three Weeks to Go 180 Miles.

"The most difficult desert journey was from Yanglik to the Charchen Daria. The distance was only 180 miles, but it was one vast sea of sand, with dunes from 300 feet to 400 feet high, and it took us three weeks. The distance was double that which was covered in my 1895 expedition, when I lost the whole of my caravan, except two men and one camel. During this last journey the mercury almost froze, the thermometer registering 33 degrees below zero, but on the whole the weather conditions were favorable. I entirely recognize the gravity of the trip, and so I only had with me four Mohammedan companions, seven camels, and one horse, and we all came through except one camel. Of course, we never met a single soul, for we were the first living beings to cross this desert waste. Four of my camels were laden with blocks of ice—for there was no water—and two camels carried our supply of wood. Had either one or the other given out we should never have survived. My men were plucky and would have followed me anywhere, but as day after day the sand dunes grew higher and higher, and the camels sank a foot or more into the

soil at every step, my companions began to lose heart. We were but half through when they said we should never come out alive. Secretly I was of the same opinion, especially as our ice and wood had almost gone. Suddenly a change came and we were overjoyed at the approach of heavy snowstorms. This entailed hardship of another character, as we had no tent with us, and on waking in the morning, we had to dig ourselves out of the snow, but it supplied us with water, and so enabled us to cross this part of the Gobi desert, never before trodden by man."

#### Captured in Tibet.

Speaking of his experiences near Lhasa, Dr. Sven Hedin said: "In the summer I made two attempts to reach Lhasa. Leaving the bulk of my caravan behind, on the first occasion I started off with only two companions, four horses, and five mules. We did not deceive ourselves as to the risk we ran if we were caught. One of my companions had been in Lhasa, and from him I learned something of the place, and he—in fact, all of us—had quite made up our minds that discovery meant death. The city itself, which is not very extensive and consists mostly of temples, would at that period of the year be very full, owing to the pilgrim caravans which go there during the summer. The Dalai Lama, I was informed, was a man of great stature, twenty-seven years of age, who never leaves his house, where he is continually engaged in his devotions. We disguised ourselves as Mongolian pilgrims, and our 'get up' was perfect, but in this mysterious land it seems that everything is known. We journeyed along quietly, little thinking that the isolated shepherds and yak hunters we passed were watching us keenly, and

that they had sent off mounted messengers to Lhasa, reporting that three strangers had left a big caravan, and were traveling toward the place. But on we went; no one molested us, and as we neared our destination we continually passed collections of black tents, whose inhabitants were suspicious, but kind. So we got to within one day's ride of Lhasa, when one dark night we were suddenly surrounded by Tibetans, all armed to the teeth, who told us that if we attempted to move we should be killed. There were many Lamas among our captors, and one aged priest, who was kindness itself to us. On making us prisoners the first thing they did was to request me to remove a pair of big black spectacles. They said I was an Englishman, and as such expected me to have blue eyes. But they were surprised when mine were found to be dark. We were kept close prisoners. Thirty-seven guards were put round my tent, and there was a perfect network of bonfires at night to prevent any attempt at escape. Of course, we were helpless—three unprotected men among hundreds of armed Tibetans, but I think, even at this time, so long after the event, my surprise at not being killed is greater than my chagrin at being stopped from carrying out my plan.

#### Well Treated.

"We were kept prisoners for five days while they sent for the governor of Naktchu to come down and deal with us. Our captors persistently refused all information about Lhasa, and declined to say why we were stopped. They merely replied that if we moved we should be killed. I found them very ignorant, knowing nothing of the outside world, but from what I saw and heard I am convinced that their object in keeping us was the idea of the sanctity and isolation of

Lhasa is based on political, and not on religious grounds. At the end of five days the Tibetan governor arrived, accompanied by sixty-seven high dignitaries, all on horseback, and clad in the very richest garments. They, too, insisted that I was an Englishman, and told me that the Dalai Lama himself had sent a message that I was to be well treated and supplied free of all cost with anything I wanted, but that if I made the slightest show of resuming my journey toward Lhasa I was to be killed. Then they released us, escorting us to the frontier of Naktchu with five officers and twenty soldiers. Notwithstanding this experience, I soon made a second attempt—this time with the whole of my caravan. I traveled from a different direction, but three days from Lhasa I was stopped by a body of 500 cavalry, well armed with rifles, swords, pikes, and lances. This time I did not look for any mercy, but again my treatment left nothing to be desired. One of the officers told me that he had a letter from the Dalai Lama to the effect that the troops would lose their heads if I went on. This force followed us for ten days, to see that I did not make a third attempt. I am quite sure that it is impossible for a European to penetrate to Lhasa even in disguise. Now, of course, the vigilance of the officials will be much greater than before."

#### Ancient Ruins.

The explorer then proceeded to give some new details concerning his visit to the Lob Nor. "The site of this ancient lake," he said, "I found to be merely a dried-up depression. The desolation was awful, and there was no sign of organic life of any kind. It was a dread country. On the northern shores I discovered ruined temples and houses with high towers. I found four villages on one direct line within a few miles of

#### "BISMARCK."

that the only scars he has were received while at play with the bears.

Charles J. Jige Alaska, a trainer well known in European capitals, has the seals and sea lions. These are nine in number and contribute a most astonishing specialty. Alaska also has a fine specimen of the Siberian sheep dog, a variety seldom seen in this country.

"Clown" Shubert has devoted himself for many years to the education of goats, and facetiously calls his pets the "goat congress of all nations." As a matter of fact, they are of the Cashmere and Swiss mountain types. Vasile Popescu, a Roumanian, who has had more thrilling experiences and narrow escapes than his fellow-trainers, has, at the suggestion of Mr. Hagenbeck, taught two Sumatra tigers to do equestrian feats with a Ceylon elephant. Despite the fact that they are the sworn enemies of the jungle, the three get along very amiably together. If there is any disagreement it usually involves Popescu.

#### Plenty of Aspirants.

Animals, like human beings, have their off days, and it is then that the trainer must be on his guard. Mr. Hagenbeck says that anybody can become a lion tamer or a tiger tamer if he has the nerve, the tact, the perseverance, and the judgment. Like parachute jumping and other extremely dangerous occupations, there are always plenty of persons anxious to try their hand at animal training. But few, for very obvious reasons, accomplish much.

Mr. Hagenbeck's second American tour began in New York three months ago. During this season and next the show will be kept on the road, after which it will be installed inside the grounds at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

HERMAN BOGER AND HIS LION-CLOWN "BRUTUS."

